

The Times

(MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY.)

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1899.

Buller's Plan of Campaign.

Heretofore general opinion in the South African war has been almost entirely confined to the operations in northern Natal, where the battles of Dundee and Blomfontein, and the close alliance of Ladysmith, have shown what British troops can do against superior numbers, and with other unfavorable conditions added. It is true that the gallant defense of Mafeking by Baden-Powell, and of Kimberley by Kekewich, have been worthy of attention, but the general view of the part of the war in South Africa, and the general view of the war in South Africa, has been generally confined to the operations in northern Natal, where the battles of Dundee and Blomfontein, and the close alliance of Ladysmith, have shown what British troops can do against superior numbers, and with other unfavorable conditions added.

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ish military status in Natal very reasonably. The rush of a heavy column of say twenty thousand men from Estcourt might be successful, but probably it would also draw his path with slaughtered soldiers by the thousand. And if successful, and reinforced by the Ladysmith garrison, it would be able to give Joubert a decisive blow, then it would be likely to happen that it would have to hunt him on the other side of the Drakensberg Mountains. It therefore, may be the object of Sir Redvers Buller to keep Joubert occupied by a movement from southern Natal, strong enough to divide his aggressive force between Ladysmith and the attack on his Tugela front, thereby increasing White's chances for successful resistance; and attempt to raise the siege by a dash against Bloemfontein, which would turn Joubert's campaign of invasion into one for the defence of Pretoria, and compel the withdrawal of the Boer army from Natal.

This idea of the strategy of the British general seems to find support in the measure news we have received of his operations so far on the Orange River border. With regard to the division of Lord Methuen, which is being organized as rapidly as possible north of the river, and is ostensibly intended for the relief of Kimberley, the news censorship at Cape Town has been singularly lightened. Military experts in London are inclined to think that there may be a purpose in this, and possibly they are right. From Belmont, where we understand Methuen's headquarters were at latest accounts, Kimberley could of course be reached by way of the railway line, which, however, probably will be found pretty badly wrecked. But "relief" might perhaps be accomplished equally as well and as quickly if Methuen were to leave the railway line at Modder's River, and move east and north over the main road which traverses the country by way of Jacobsburg, north of the Orange River, which is a little south of east and near Kimberley.

Such a movement might be expected to send the besiegers in the direction of Bloemfontein before it developed far enough north to hinder their retreat; or, Buller might consider it wiser to ignore Kimberley, if that place is not in desperate straits, and order Methuen to keep right on for Bloemfontein from Jacobsburg.

In the latter case the division would be one certain to be felt at Joubert's headquarters in front of Ladysmith, with immediate results. It is too early to predict. It will pay to watch developments in Methuen's direction, and also to keep a close eye on the Orange River line between Colesburg and Beaufort. We are very much mistaken if the advance of Lord Methuen "for the relief of Kimberley" is not to be synchronous, or nearly so, with another advance from a point far to the east, with Bloemfontein as its objective.

It must be borne in mind that every day during the next two weeks will find Sir Redvers Buller in better and better shape to "push the war into Africa." As soon as he can plant a sufficient force to hold the line he desires on the Orange River, and protect his communications, he will be able to concentrate two or three large columns at such bases as De Aar, Naauw Poort, and Stensburg, and when that has been done the Orange valley will not long be bare of British bayonets. If these plans succeed in transferring the principal field of war from Natal to the Free State, it is useful to note that Buller will be able to throw his forces over the Orange River and into the enemy's country, quite as quickly, if not faster, than the Boer army can move from the Neck of Natal and by Van Rensselaer and Tlouw passes to meet them. Joubert's transportation and commissariat organizations are not of the best, and his ability and resources would be badly strained by a long march retrograde to the Orange River.

In view of the indications and suggestions of what may be looked for in the general theatre of war during the coming weeks, the struggle will be observed with increasing interest both here and in Europe from day to day. Great surprises are not to be considered by any means impossible. Ladysmith possibly may be taken; so may Mafeking or Kimberley, before the winter campaign is over. But if they are to hold their own and escape with whole skins, a wide survey of the current conditions leads us to think that they are all likely to benefit more by an invasion from the Free State than by an invasion from the Orange River, but by direct retrograde.

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ELECTIONS IN PORTO RICO.

General Davis Makes an Experiment With the Australian Ballot.
PONCE, P. R., Nov. 19.—At the American occupation of Porto Rico, rivalry of political parties was at a low ebb owing to lack of interest displayed by the Republicans, because the old Spanish party, the Liberals, had always held power, and the others seemed resigned to a quiet fate. Upon the arrival of the Americans, the Republicans began to work to throw off the yoke of the Spanish reign. General Brooke, who had been in the island for some time, and who would not relinquish their love of the Spanish flag. When he was transferred to Cuba, and General Henry was appointed Governor, General Brooke was called to the aid of the party of the island to meet at the palace in San Juan and had a long talk with them. He told them that he had no political views, and that he had no long talk with them. He told them that he had no political views, and that he had no long talk with them.

Each of these representatives returned to his city, and as he had been best, but the apple of discord entering the residents' minds, caused dissatisfaction and prejudice, and in many cases, petitions were sent to the Governor, requesting a change of mayors. General Davis, having succeeded General Henry as Governor, said that no more appointments would be made, and that the only candidate for the office of selecting a new candidate would be the one who had been elected in the town of Mayaguez, Aguinaldo, Adjutant, Goyas, and the other officers of the military commanders of two districts.

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THE BOERS AS FIGHTERS.

A Description of the Farmer Soldiers of South Africa.
The farmer soldiers of the two Republics, says a writer in the "New York World," make or receive charges in silence, their minds intent upon aim and upon strategy. It is a charge, they advance in a scattered and what seems to be a confused manner. In reality it is only the Boers' natural order, in which they fight best. A retreat looks like a rout, because each man tries to save himself as quickly as possible. A rout is almost impossible, because the farmers do not understand how to "lose their heads." They scatter, and when a place of safety has been reached come together again, as if nothing had happened.

While they have no martial music in the ordinary sense, they have martial music in the most impressive kind in the extraordinary sense. Each night before "turning in" and each morning before breakfast, and also before going into battle, they sing. The entire army, with heads uncovered, joins in singing "Old Hundred." Each note is prolonged six beats and the effect is solemn and even awe-inspiring. The Boers are a natural strategist, wily, crafty, hard to corner, quick to seize the slightest advantage, quick to see advantage where even trained soldiers of other nations would fail to see it.

It is a mistake to suppose that the Boers have deteriorated in marksmanship. The Boers have got the impression from a superficial observation of the Boers of the large towns. The villagers and farmers are as sure of shot as of old. With a smooth-bore gun a Boer shot Sir George W. Colley through the leg in the Mafeking fight at 1,400 yards. With one of the new guns General Symons was shot in the Boer's own target—the stomach—at a far longer range. The Boers are very accurate with their knowledge of air currents, but a small object almost every time at 4,500 yards. The Boers are very accurate with their knowledge of air currents, but a small object almost every time at 4,500 yards.

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EXPLAINED BY CARNegie.

He Tells How the Great Deal in Steel Was Made.
PITTSBURGH, Pa., Nov. 18.—The next person who wants an opinion on the intricate in the steel and other business connected with it, will have to pay an enhanced price. Mr. Carnegie left New York on the Pennsylvania Railroad limited express to-day, and following his usual custom, gave out an interview prior to his departure from Pittsburgh. "There is a million for the option," he continued, "I shall want five millions."</